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(73) Octrooihouder(s):
majem B.V. te Amsterdam

(72) Uitvinder(s):
Anna Marcella Palacios te Amsterdam
Hendrik van Benthem te Amsterdam

(74) Gemachtigde:
ir. H.A. Witmans c.s. te Den Haag

(54) **Multi-purpose shipping bag and method of using said multi-purpose shipping bag**

(57) A shipping bag is provided, comprising a storage volume accessible through an opening in the bag, a fold-over flap extending away from the opening of the shipping bag towards a flap end, wherein the fold-over flap comprises a distal weakened section positioned at a first distance from the flap end and a proximal weakened section positioned at a second distance from the flap end. The shipping bag further comprises a distal connection element arranged for forming a connection between the bag and a section of the fold-over flap between the distal weakened section and the proximal weakened section.

P131860NL00

Title: Multi-purpose shipping bag and method of using said multi-purpose shipping bag

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to shipping bags, more specifically to a multi-purpose shipping bag.

BACKGROUND

Shipping bags are commonly used for shipping products such as clothing or shoes. A sender can put a product inside the shipping bag, seal said shipping bag and send it to a receiver. The receiver can then open the shipping bag and retrieve the products. Shipping bags can be used to protect the products during shipment from external influences such as weather conditions and can prevent a third party from knowing what product is being sent from a sender to a receiver. Finally, the sealed shipping bag serves as an indication that the product inside has not been tampered with by a third party.

With the rise in online shopping, for example online shopping of clothing, more and more shipping bags are used by retailers to ship their clothes to the consumers.

If the consumer does not like the shipped product, for example the clothes do not fit correctly, they can often ship the product back to the retailer in return for better fitting clothes or a refund. To help consumers returning products more easily and without damaging the products, shipping bags can comprise a connection element such as an adhesive strip. The connection element allows the consumer to re-use the shipping bag and more conveniently return the product.

Re-using the shipping bag may result in a reduced environmental footprint, compared to discarding the shipping bag and using another shipping bag to return the product.

SUMMARY

A downside of known shipping bags is that they can have a significant environmental footprint. A large amount of waste is generated, as the shipping bags are discarded either after the product is received by the consumer, or after the product is returned to the retailer.

It is an object of the disclosure to provide a shipping bag that has less of an environmental footprint than a conventional shipping bag. A lower environmental footprint can for example be achieved by recycling or repurposing the shipping bag.

In general, a shipping bag may also be referred to as a mailing bag, or more in general a storage bag. A shipping bag may for example be provided with a label indicating the address of the recipient, and/or a return address. The label may be a sticker glued to the shipping bag, or an address may be directly printed onto the shipping bag.

A first aspect provides a shipping bag comprising a storage volume accessible through an opening in the bag, a fold-over flap extending away from the opening of the shipping bag towards a flap end, wherein the fold-over flap comprises a distal weakened section positioned at a first distance from the flap end and a proximal weakened section positioned at a second distance from the flap end. The shipping bag further comprises a distal connection element arranged for forming a connection between the bag and a section of the fold-over flap between the distal weakened section and the proximal weakened section.

In general, the terms proximal and distal are used with the flap end as a reference. Furthermore in general, the bag may comprise a main bag body providing the storage volume, with the fold-over flap extending away from the main bag body.

The main bag body may be formed by a front panel and a rear panel, which front panel and rear panel are connected. The front panel and

the rear panel may in particular be connected at three seams. As a further option, the fold-over flap extends from the rear panel.

The distal connection element is in particular positioned on the fold-over flap, in between the distal weakened section and the proximal weakened section. Alternatively, the distal connection element can be positioned on the bag, or partially on the bag and partially on the section of the fold-over flap in between the distal weakened section and the proximal weakened section.

In use, the distal connection element may be used for connecting the fold-over flap to the bag – in particular when the fold-over flap is folded over the opening. When the shipping bag comprises the distal connection element as the sole connection element, the distal connection element may be referred to as the connection element.

By providing the shipping bag comprising the storage volume that is accessible through an opening, the shipping bag can fulfil its role as a shipping container. When a receiving party wishes to return a product shipped in the same shipping bag after the shipping bag has been opened, the receiving party is able to seal the shipping bag, in particular using the distal connection element.

In general, a connection element can be an adhesive strip substantially crossing the fold-over flap or the bag, a connection element may comprise discrete adhesive sections, any other non-reversable connection element, or any combination thereof. Non-reversable connection elements in this context means that once the connection element has formed a connection, the connection can only be undone by a destructive action, such as ripping or tearing of the connection element or shipping bag. The destructive action can act as evidence of tampering.

By providing the distal connection element, the receiving party can relatively easily seal the shipping bag for shipping, preferably without the use of additional tools or materials. The connection element can be covered

by a removable protective surface. The removable protective surface can ensure that the connection element retains its integrity before use. For example, when the connection element is an adhesive strip, a paper strip can be placed on top of the adhesive strip to ensure that the adhesive strip stays sufficiently adhesive and does not stick to other objects or the bag itself. When the receiving party wants to make use of the adhesive strip, they can remove the paper strip. Alternatively, the connection element can be activated, for example by adding another compound such as water onto the connection element, which connection element may thus comprise dried glue.

By providing a distal weakened section between the flap end and the opening of the bag, it can be possible to remove a section of the fold-over flap, or even the entire fold-over flap. When the distal connection element is positioned on the fold-over flap, the distal connection element may be removed together with the section of the fold-over flap or the entire fold-over flap by breaking the distal weakened section. When the section of the fold-over flap or even the entire fold-over flap is removed, the shipping bag may be conveniently recycled as a garbage bag.

A garbage bag is an example of a single-use container. Allowing the shipping bag to act as a single-use container can reduce the environmental impact of said shipping bag. For example, by using a shipping bag as a garbage bag after the shipping bag fulfilled its purpose as a shipping bag, the need for garbage bags can be reduced. Other examples of single-use containers can be grocery bags used in grocery stores and markets.

Tearing the fold-over flap at the distal weakened section can result in the removal of the proximal weakened section and/or the distal connection element. More specifically, it can be possible that by tearing the distal weakened section the fold-over flap is substantially removed from the rest of the shipping bag. More preferably or alternatively, the complete fold-over flap can be removed by tearing or ripping the fold-over flap the at the distal weakened section.

In use, tearing or ripping or otherwise removing the fold-over flap at the distal weakened section may result in removal of the distal connection element from the shipping bag. When the shipping bag is then used as a garbage bag, the distal connection element can be conveniently discarded and will as such not by accident connect or stick to the bag or a garbage bin.

It will be clear to the person skilled in the arts that there are multiple ways of achieving a weakened section. For example, it can be possible to provide one or more perforations at least partially across the fold-over flap. Preferably, the perforations are substantially across the fold-over flap. In another example, a weakened section comprises one or more indentations, or one or more section with locally reduced thickness of the shipping bag. In an even further example, a combination of indentations and perforations can be provided. In general, a weakened section can be formed by part of the fold-over flap having a cut, nick, or incision therein. The cut, nick, or incision may aid a user in ripping or tearing the bag, in particular the fold-over flap.

In embodiments, the shipping bag can comprise a proximal connection element for forming a connection between the bag and a section of the flap between the proximal weakened section and the flap end. In particular, the proximal connection element may be provided between the proximal weakened section and the flap end. By providing the proximal connection element, it can be made relatively easy by the sending party to seal the shipping bags since no specialized equipment or training is needed to seal the shipping bags. A proximal connection element can have the same or comparable properties and advantages as the distal connection element discussed above.

As a further option, the first and second distances are not equal. In particular, the first distance may be larger than the second distance. As such, the distal weakened section may be positioned further away from the flap-end than the proximal weakened section.

At least one of or both the weakened sections may be substantially parallel to the flap end. Additionally or alternatively, at least one of or both the connection elements may be oriented substantially parallel to the flap end.

Embodiments of the shipping bag may comprise a closing mechanism. The closing mechanism is provided between a closed end of the bag and the opening, and the closing mechanism is arranged to prevent or restrict access to the storage volume through the opening in the bag. By providing a closing mechanism, the shipping bag can be closed when the connection elements are no longer present, for example when the fold-over flap is no longer present because a user removed it at the weakened section. When the shipping bag is used as a garbage bag, the closing mechanism may be preferred to allow a user to conveniently close the bag, for example when the bag is full.

When the shipping bag comprises a closing mechanism, the closing mechanism can comprise a tunnel positioned around a circumference of the opening in the bag and a drawstring located in the tunnel. By providing the drawstring located in the tunnel around the circumference of the opening, a user can easily close the shipping bag without the use of external equipment or tools.

In embodiment of the shipping bag, the storage volume can be at least 20 litres, or between 20 litres and 60 litres. Preferably, the storage volume is approximately 60 litres. Preferably, the shipping bag comprises a storage volume that can be used in common garbage containers, for example 20 litres, 30 litres and 40 litres or even larger than 40 litres such as 60 litres. However, it will be clear to the person skilled in the arts that any volume can be used. Having a sufficiently large storage volume can result in a larger time interval between placing new shipping bags in a garbage container.

A second aspect provides a method of using the shipping bag, comprising the step of removing at least part of a fold-over flap from the

shipping bag. In particular for the method according to the second aspect, a shipping bag according to the first aspect may be used. The at least part of the fold-over flap may be removed from the shipping bag at a distal weakened section of the shipping bag. After being removed, the at least part of the fold-over flap may be discarded, in particular with a connection element on the discarded at least part of the fold-over flap. This connection element may be a distal connection element, and may not have been used.

Embodiments of the method may further comprise steps of placing a product in a storage volume of the shipping bag, folding the fold-over flap such that an opening of the shipping bag is substantially covered and forming a connection between the bag and a section of the fold-over flap between a distal weakened section and a proximal weakened section of the shipping bag, in particular using a proximal connection element of the bag. Following these steps, the shipping bag with the product inside may be shipped to a receiving party.

The method may further comprise a step of opening the bag by destroying, in particular ripping or tearing, the fold-over flap between a proximal connection element and a distal connection element of the shipping bag, in particular using a proximal weakened section of the bag. As such, a storage volume of the shipping bag may become accessible and a product inside may be removed from the storage volume.

After at least part of the fold-over flap is removed from the shipping bag at a distal weakened section, the shipping bag may be used as a garbage bag and as such may be filled with garbage.

A third aspect provides a shipping bag, comprising a storage volume accessible through an opening in the bag, a fold-over flap extending away from the opening of the shipping bag towards a flap end. The shipping bag according to the third aspect comprises a closing mechanism, positioned between a closed end of the bag and the opening in the bag, wherein the

closing mechanism is arranged to prevent or restrict access to the storage volume through the opening in the bag.

The closing mechanism for example comprises a tunnel positioned around a circumference of the opening in the bag and a drawstring located in the tunnel.

It will be appreciated that options and features disclosed in conjunction with the shipping bag according to the first aspect may be readily applied in embodiment of the shipping bag according to the third aspect. For example, embodiments of the shipping bag according to the third aspect may be provided with one or more connection elements, or no connection elements at all. Additionally, embodiments of the shipping bag according to the third aspect may be provided with one or more weakened sections comprised by the fold-over flap, or no weakened sections comprised by the fold-over flap.

The fold over flap allows the shipping bag to be used for shipping items, and optionally again for returning items after being used for shipping. The closing mechanism allows the shipping bag to be used as a garbage bag, for example after being used for shipping items. Hence, the shipping bag can be advantageously recycled and reused.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

The aspects will be further elucidated on the basis of the exemplary embodiments that are represented in the figures. In the figures:

Fig. 1 shows a schematic front view of a shipping bag;

Fig. 2 shows a schematic isometric view of the shipping bag;

Fig. 3 shows a schematic isometric view of the shipping bag wherein a weakened section is used to tear off the fold-over flap;

Fig. 4 shows a schematic isometric view of the shipping bag with part of the fold-over flap disconnected from another part of the fold-over flap;

Fig. 5 shows a schematic front view of the shipping bag used as a garbage bag; and

Fig. 6 shows a schematic front view of an alternative embodiment of the shipping bag.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Figure 1 shows a schematic front view of an embodiment of a shipping bag 100. The shipping bag 100 comprises a storage volume, in which one or more items such as clothing may be stored. The storage volume is defined by a main bag body 101 comprising a front panel 110 and a rear panel. Furthermore, the shipping bag 100 comprises a fold-over flap 120 that extends away from an opening 122 of the shipping bag 100.

The fold-over flap 120 comprises a distal weakened section 130 at a first distance D1 from the flap end 121 and a proximal weakened section 140 at a second distance D2 from the flap end 121. In the shown example the weakened sections 130, 140 are regularly spaced perforations along a line across the fold-over flap 120. It will be clear to the person skilled in the arts that there are other examples of weakened sections such as, but not limited to, regularly spaced indentations along a line, irregular spaced perforations or indentations a long a line. A weakened section may also be formed for example by providing a slit or incision at one or both of the sides of the shipping bag 100, in particular of the flap 120.

In the shown example of Fig. 1, two connection elements are provided. A distal connection element 150 is provided between the weakened sections 130, 140 on the fold-over flap 120. A proximal connection element 160 is provided between the proximal weakened section 140 and the flap end 121. In the shown example, the connection elements 150, 160 are provided as adhesive strips placed across the fold-over flap 120. Optionally, the adhesive strips 150, 160 are covered by protective elements 151, 161. In the shown example, the protective elements 151, 161 are strips to ensure the adhesive properties of the adhesive strips 150, 160 while the adhesive strips are not yet used. When an adhesive strip 150, 160 is used to seal the shipping bag

100, the respective strip 151, 161 is to be removed by the user. A strip 151, 161 may for example be a paper strip.

Figure 2 shows a schematic isometric view of the shipping bag 100 with the opening 122 opened up. An example on how the shipping bag 100 can be used is as follows. A sending party puts a product that needs to be shipped to a receiving party in the storage volume of the shipping bag 100 via the opening 122. Afterwards, the sending party for example removes the protective layer 161 of the proximal connection element 160. Next, the fold-over flap 120 is folded over such that the now exposed proximal connection element 160 comes into contact with the front panel 110 of the shipping bag 100: a connection is formed between the bag and a section of the fold-over flap between the flap end 121 and the proximal weakened section 160. Doing so will seal the product in the shipping bag 100, making it ready for shipment.

When a receiving party receives the shipping bag 100 with the product, the storage volume of the bag 100 can be accessed for example by ripping open the fold-over flap 120. Preferably, the fold-over flap 120 is ripped using the proximal weakened section 140, so that main bag body remains intact, as well as the distal connection element 150 and the distal weakened section 130.

The shipping bag 100 can now be reused as a shipping bag 100 using the distal connection element 150 to form a connection between the bag and a section of the fold-over flap between the distal weakened section and the proximal weakened section. Alternatively, the shipping bag 100 can be converted into a garbage bag or more general a storage bag, for example in a manner elaborated on in conjunction with Figure 3. As a further option, after the fold-over flap 120 is removed, the shipping bag 100 may again be used as a shipping bag 100. The opening 122 may for example again be sealed by folding the shipping bag 100 and by using an external connection element, such as a length of tape, for sealing the opening 122.

Figure 3 shows a schematic isometric view of the shipping bag 100 wherein the distal weakened section 130 is used to tear off at least the majority of the fold-over flap 120. As such, the distal connection element 150 may for example be removed from the bag 100. Although the proximal connection element 160 is in Fig. 3 shown still connected to the fold-over flap 120, the proximal connection element 160 may also already have been removed for example using the proximal weakened section.

In order to facilitate the use of the shipping bag 100 as a single-use container such as a garbage bag, an optional closing mechanism 170 is provided between a closed end 102 of the bag and the opening 122. The closed end 102 may for example be a bottom of the bag 100, positioned opposite to the opening 122.

The closing mechanism 170 is arranged to prevent or restrict access to the storage volume through the opening in the bag when used. In the shown example, the closing mechanism 170 comprises a tunnel 171 located on the front panel 110 and the rear panel of the shipping bag around a circumference of the opening 122. Furthermore, the closing mechanism 170 comprises a drawstring 172 located inside said tunnel 171.

Figure 4 shows a schematic isometric view of the shipping bag 100, with a proximal part of the fold-over flap 120" removed from a distal part of the fold-over flap 120', in particular using the proximal weakened section 140. The proximal part of the fold-over flap 120" is shown connected to the front panel 110 of the bag 100, in particular using the proximal connection element 160.

In the state of Figure 4, the shipping bag 100 can be used again for shipping an item. For example, the item can be placed inside the bag 100 through the opening 122, and the opening 122 can be closed by folding the distal part of the fold-over flap 120' towards the front panel 110, and by connection the distal part of the fold-over flap 120' to the front panel 110, for example using the distal connection element 150.

Alternatively, the shipping bag 100 can now be used as a garbage bag, and the optional closing mechanism 170 may be used for closing the opening 122 after garbage is disposed into the bag 100. It may be preferred to remove the distal part of the fold-over flap 120', for example using the distal weakened section 130. This may prevent the distal connection element 150 from accidentally connecting to the bag 100, in particular when the distal connection element 150 comprises a glue.

Figure 5 shows a schematic front view of the shipping bag 100 used as a single-use container when the closing mechanism 170 is used to prevent or restrict access to the storage volume through the opening. When the shipping bag 100, in role of single-use container, in this example a garbage bag, is full or needs to be taken out to a central garbage collecting area, the drawstring 172 can be pulled. This causes a surface area of the opening 122 to substantially reduce in size, preventing garbage from falling out of the shipping bag 100. Preferably the storage volume of the provided shipping bag 100 is at least 20 litres, as this is a common size for garbage bags. However, it shall be clear to the person skilled in the arts that other commonly used garbage bag sizes can be used as well, as well as not-commonly used garbage bag sizes.

Figure 6 shows an alternative embodiment of a shipping bag 100 in a schematic front view. In the alternative embodiment, the distal connection element 150 is provided on the front panel 110 of the bag. The distal connection element 150 is positioned at a third distance D3 from the opening of the bag. As such, the distal connection element 150 may be used for forming a connection between the bag and a section of the fold-over flap between the distal weakened section 130 and the proximal weakened section 140.

It will be understood that other embodiments of the bag 100 are envisioned wherein the proximal connection element 160 is positioned on the

front panel 110. This option may be combined with a distal connection element 150 which is positioned on the flap 120 or the front panel 110.

It is to be noted that the figures are only schematic representations of embodiments and are given by way of non-limiting examples. For the purpose of clarity and a concise description, features are described herein as part of the same or separate embodiments, however, it will be appreciated that combination of all or some of the features described are also envisioned.

Conclusies

1. Verzendzak (100), omvattende:

- een opslagvolume welke toegankelijk is via een opening (122) in de zak;
- een omslagflap (120) welke weg strekt van de opening van de verzendzak richting een flapuiteinde (121), waarin de omslagflap een distale verzwakte sectie (130) omvat gepositioneerd op een eerste afstand (D1) van het flapuiteinde en een proximale verzwakte sectie (140) gepositioneerd op een tweede afstand (D2) van het flapuiteinde; en
- een distaal verbindingselement (150) ingericht voor vormen van een verbinding tussen de zak en een deel van de omslagflap tussen de distale verzwakte sectie en de proximale verzwakte sectie.

2. Verzendzak (100) volgens conclusie 1, waarin het distale verbindingselement (150) gepositioneerd is op de omslagflap, tussen de distale verzwakte sectie (130) en de proximale verzwakte sectie (140).

3. Verzendzak (100) volgens conclusie 1 of 2, waarin de distale verzwakte sectie (130) gepositioneerd is tussen de opening (122) in de zak en het distale verbindingselement (150).

4. Verzendzak volgens een van de voorgaande conclusies, verder omvattende een proximaal verbindingselement (160) voor vormen van een verbinding tussen de zak en een deel van de flap tussen de proximale verzwakte sectie en het flapuiteinde.

5. Verzendzak volgens conclusie 4, waarin het proximale verbindingselement (160) gepositioneerd is op de omslagflap, tussen de proximale verzwakte sectie en het flapuiteinde.

6. Verzendzak volgens een van de voorgaande conclusies, waarin de eerste afstand (D1) groter is dan de tweede afstand (D2).

7. Verzendzak volgens een van de voorgaande conclusies, verder omvattende een sluitingsmechanisme, gepositioneerd tussen een gesloten uiteinde van de zak en de opening in de zak, waarin het sluitingsmechanisme is ingericht om toegang tot het opslagvolume door de opening in de zak te voorkomen of beperken.

8. Verzendzak volgens conclusie 7, waarin het sluitingsmechanisme een tunnel omvat welke rond een omtrek van de opening in de zak is gepositioneerd en een trekkoord welke zich in de tunnel bevindt.

9. Verzendzak volgens een van de voorgaande conclusies, waarin het opslagvolume ten minste 20 liter is.

10. Verzendzak volgens een van de voorgaande conclusies, omvattende en hoofdzaklichaam welke het opslagvolume voorziet, welk hoofdzaklichaam gevormd wordt door een voorpaneel (110) en een achterpaneel, welk voorpaneel en achterpaneel verbonden zijn.

11. Verzendzak volgens conclusie 10, waarin de omslagflap uit het achterpaneel strekt.

12. Werkwijze voor gebruiken van een verzendzak, bij voorkeur een verzendzak volgens een van de voorgaande conclusies, omvattende een stap van verwijderen van ten minste deel van een omslagflap van de verzendzak.

13. Werkwijze volgens conclusie 12, waarin het ten minste deel van de omslagflap verwijderd wordt van de verzendzak bij een distale verzwakte sectie van de omslagflap.

14. Werkwijze volgens conclusie 12 of 13, verder omvattende weggooien van het ten minste deel van de omslagflap met een verbindingselement op het weggegooide ten minste deel van de omslagflap.

15. Werkwijze volgens een van de conclusies 12-14, verder omvattende stappen van:

- plaatsen van een product in een opslagvolume van de verzendzak;
- vouwen van de omslagflap zodanig dat een opening van de verzendzak in hoofdzaak afgedekt is; en
- vormen van een verbinding tussen de zak en een sectie van de omslagflap tussen een distale verzwakte sectie en een proximale verzwakte sectie (140) van de verzendzak, in het bijzonder gebruik makend van een proximaal verbindingselement (160) van de zak.

16. Werkwijze volgens conclusie 15, verder omvattende een stap van openen van de zak door vernietigen van de omslagflap tussen een proximaal verbindingselement en een distaal verbindingselement van de verzendzak, in het bijzonder gebruik makend van een proximale verzwakte sectie van de zak.

17. Werkwijze volgens een van de conclusies 12-16, verder omvattende, nadat ten minste deel van de omslagflap verwijderd is van de verzendzak, vullen van de verzendzak met vuilnis.

18. Verzendzak (100) omvattende:

- een opslagvolume welke toegankelijk is via een opening (122) in de zak;
- een omslagflap (120) welke weg strekt van de opening van de verzendzak richting een flapuiteinde (121); en
- een sluitingsmechanisme, gepositioneerd tussen een gesloten uiteinde van de zak en de opening in de zak, waarin het

sluitingsmechanisme is ingericht om toegang tot het opslagvolume door de opening in de zak te voorkomen of beperken.

19. Verzendzak volgens conclusie 18, waarin het sluitingsmechanisme een tunnel omvat welke rond een omtrek van de opening in de zak is gepositioneerd en een trekkoord welke zich in de tunnel bevindt.

100

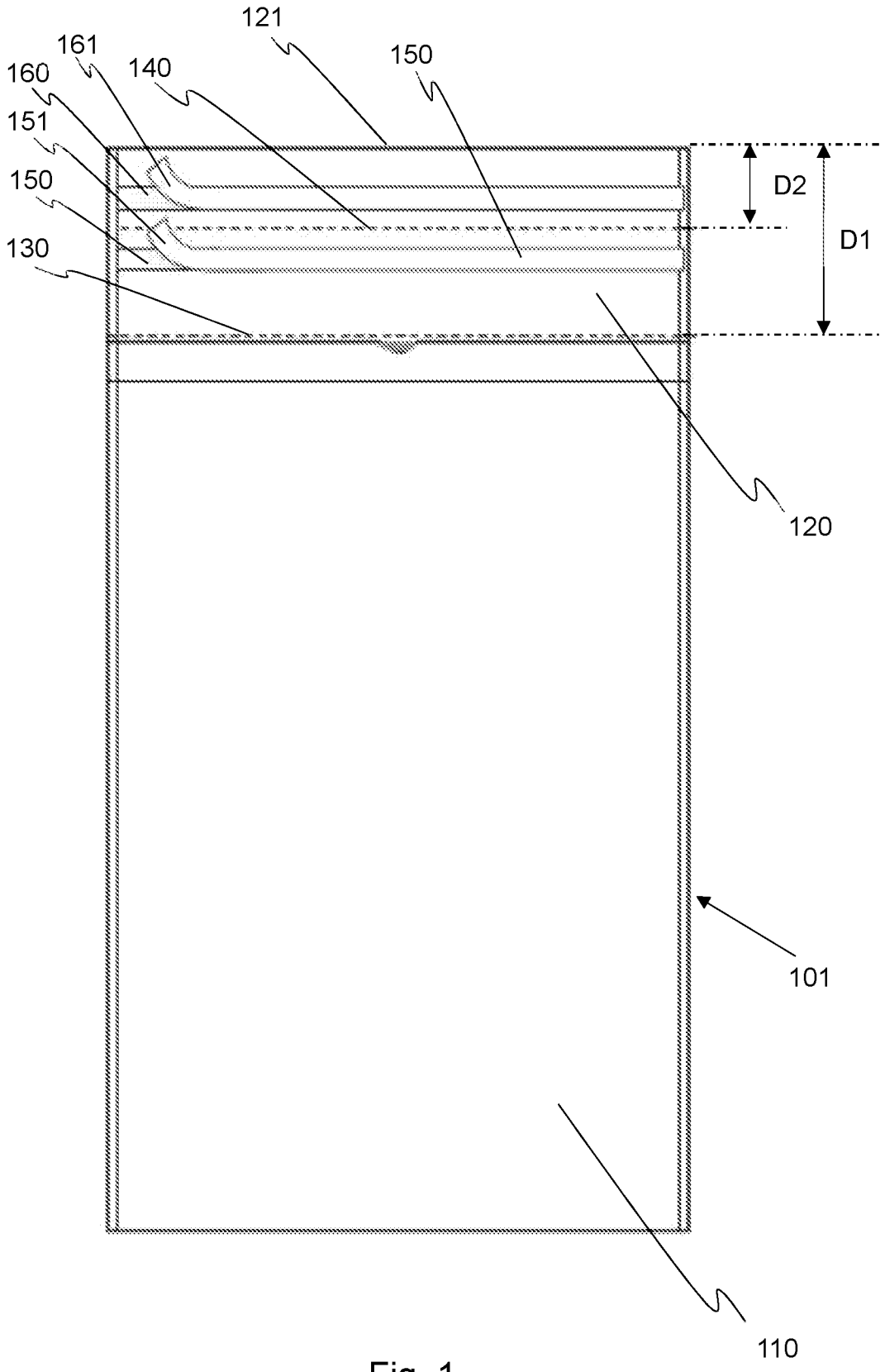

Fig. 1

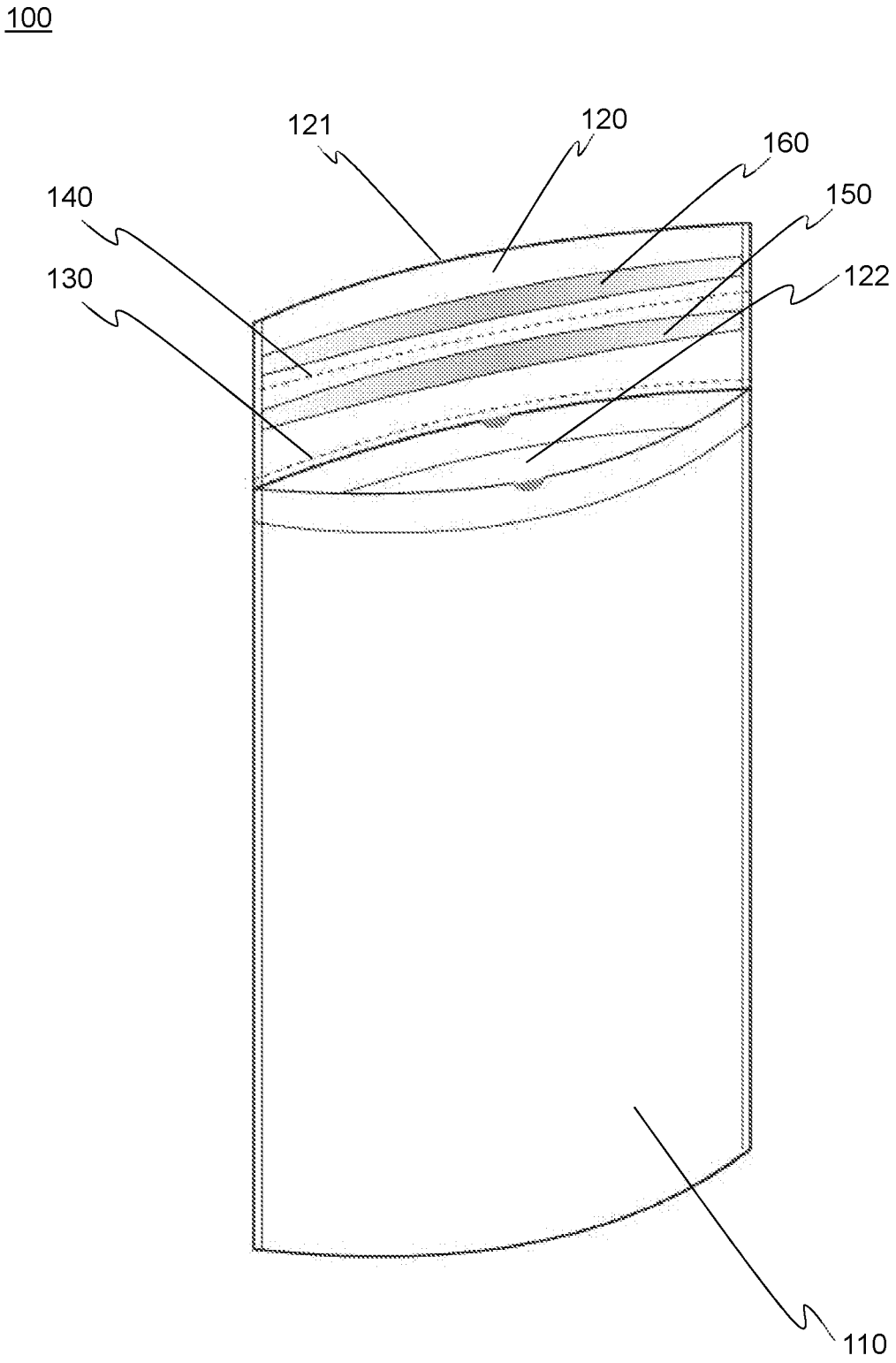

Fig. 2

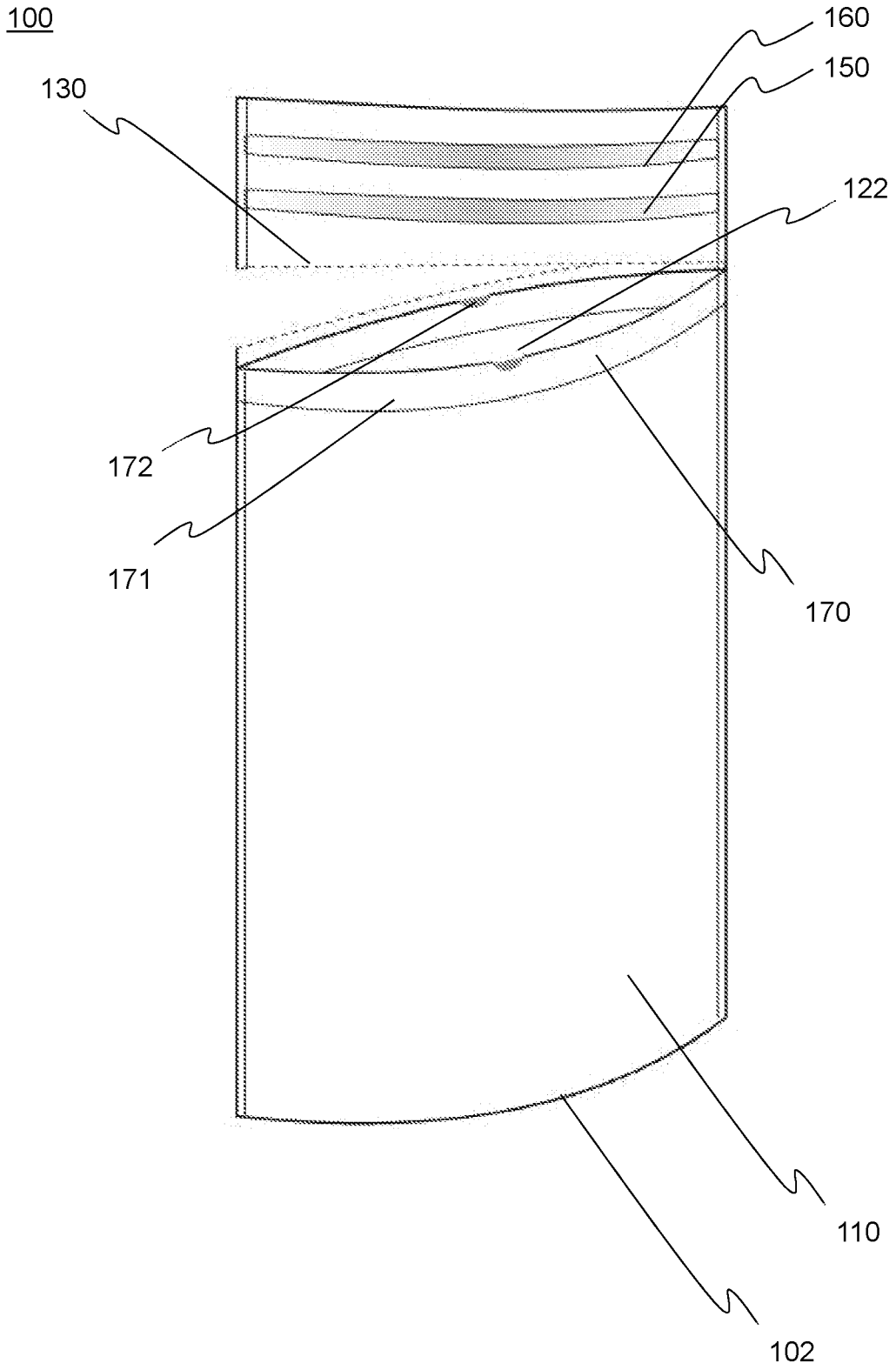

Fig. 3

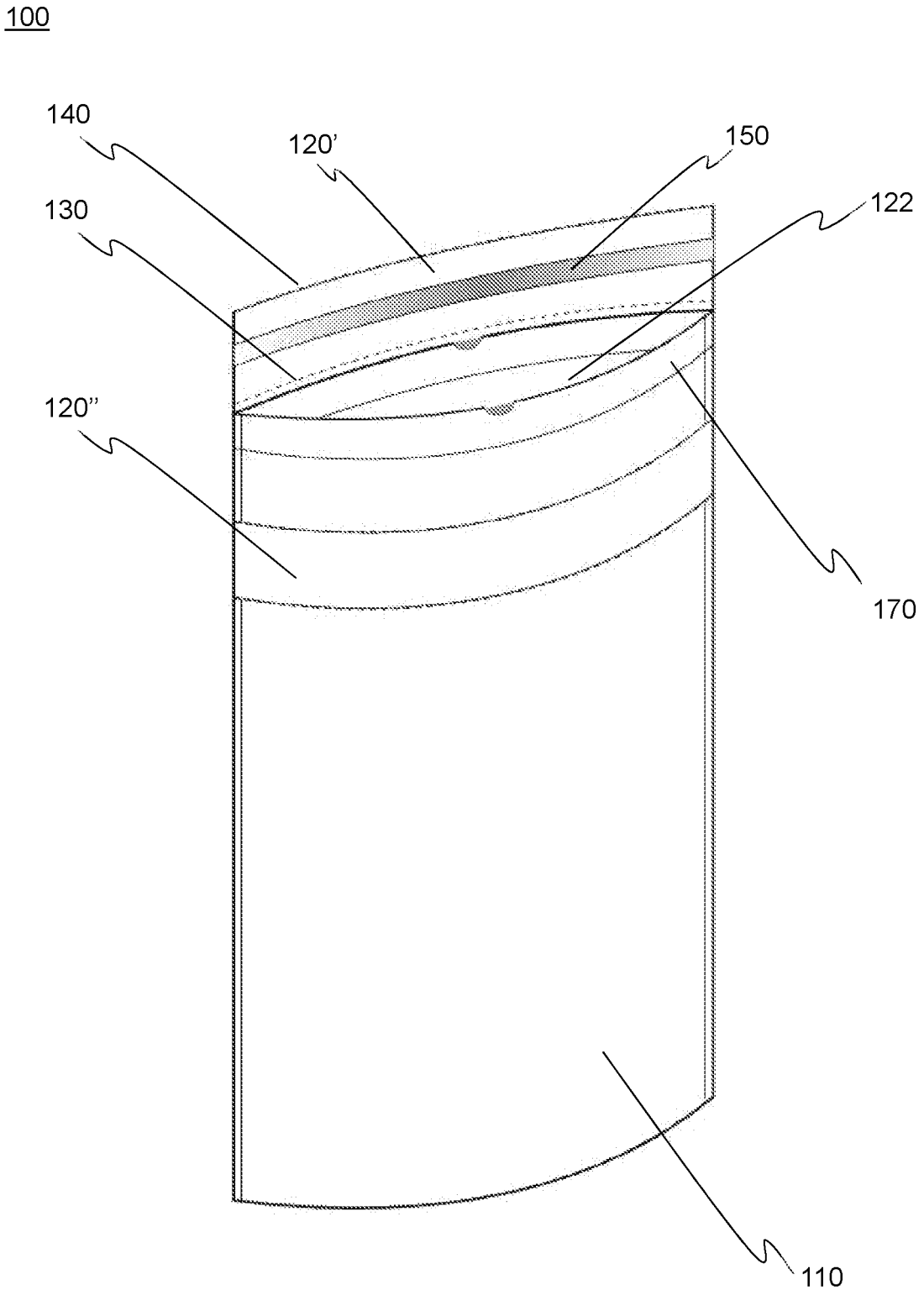

Fig. 4

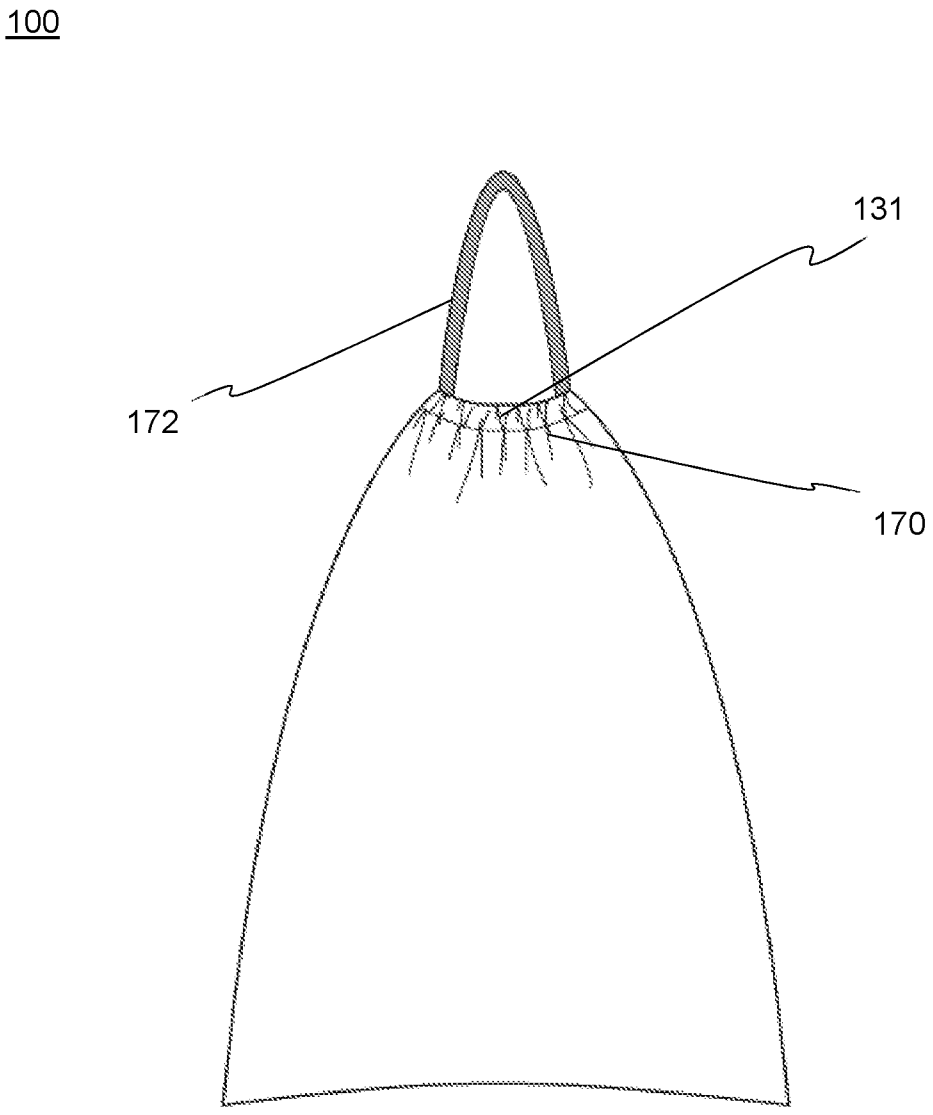

Fig. 5

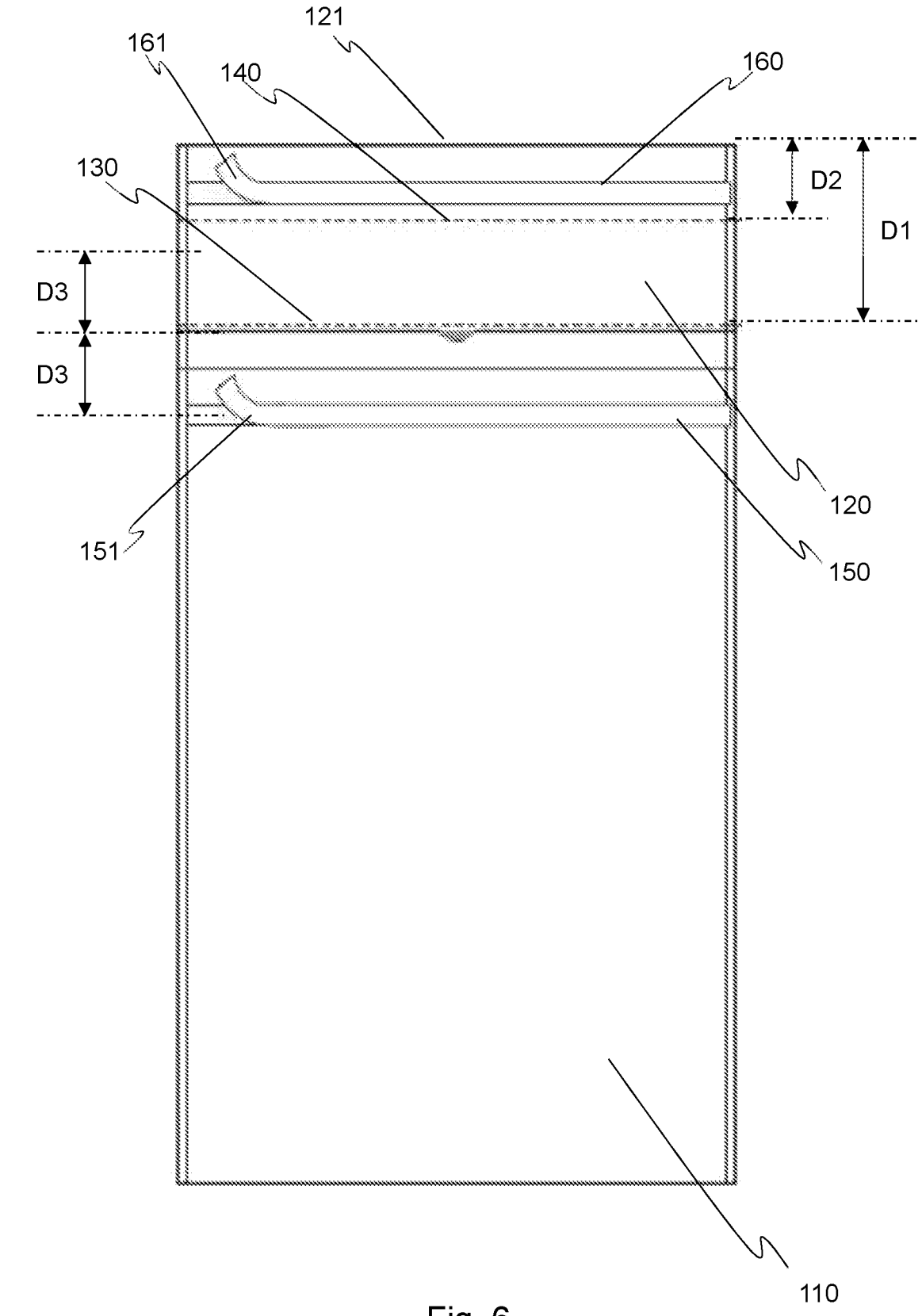

Fig. 6

SAMENWERKINGSVERDRAG (PCT)

RAPPORT BETREFFENDE NIEUWHEIDSONDERZOEK VAN INTERNATIONAAL TYPE

IDENTIFICATIE VAN DE NATIONALE AANVRAGE	KENMERK VAN DE AANVRAGER OF VAN DE GEMACHTIGDE
Nederlands aanvraag nr. **2030829**	Indieningsdatum **07-02-2022**
	Ingeroepen voorrangsdatum
Aanvrager (Naam) **majem B.V.**	
Datum van het verzoek voor een onderzoek van internationaal type **09-04-2022**	Door de Instantie voor Internationaal Onderzoek aan het verzoek voor een onderzoek van internationaal type toegekend nr. **SN81011**

I. CLASSIFICATIE VAN HET ONDERWERP (bij toepassing van verschillende classificaties, alle classificatiesymbolen opgeven)

Volgens de internationale classificatie (IPC)

Zie onderzoeksrapport

II. ONDERZOCHTE GEBIEDEN VAN DE TECHNIEK

Onderzochte minimumdocumentatie

Classificatiesysteem	Classificatiesymbolen
IPC	**Zie onderzoeksrapport**

Onderzochte andere documentatie dan de minimum documentatie, voor zover dergelijke documenten in de onderzochte gebieden zijn opgenomen

III.	☐	**GEEN ONDERZOEK MOGELIJK VOOR BEPAALDE CONCLUSIES**	(opmerkingen op aanvullingsblad)
IV.	☐	**GEBREK AAN EENHEID VAN UITVINDING**	(opmerkingen op aanvullingsblad)

ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek
NL 2030829

A. CLASSIFICATIE VAN HET ONDERWERP

INV. B65D33/20 B65B1/00 B65D33/28 B65F1/00 B65D33/18
ADD.

Volgens de Internationale Classificatie van octrooien (IPC) of zowel volgens de nationale classificatie als volgens de IPC.

B. ONDERZOCHTE GEBIEDEN VAN DE TECHNIEK

Onderzochte miminum documentatie (classificatie gevolgd door classificatiesymbolen)

B65D B65B B65F

Onderzochte andere documentatie dan de mimimum documentatie, voor dergelijke documenten, voor zover dergelijke documenten in de onderzochte gebieden zijn opgenomen

Tijdens het onderzoek geraadpleegde elektronische gegevensbestanden (naam van de gegevensbestanden en, waar uitvoerbaar, gebruikte trefwoorden)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. VAN BELANG GEACHTE DOCUMENTEN

Categorie °	Geciteerde documenten, eventueel met aanduiding van speciaal van belang zijnde passages	Van belang voor conclusie nr.
X	US 2016/122084 A1 (EBERHARD PATRICK [DE]) 5 mei 2016 (2016-05-05)	1-6,9-17
Y	* alineas [0020], [0046], [0051] - [0055], [0057], [0059], [0060], [0065] - [0069]; figuren 1A, 3A-3C *	7,8
X	US 2021/122566 A1 (CHUA SONG RU [SG]) 29 april 2021 (2021-04-29)	12-19
Y	* alineas [0001], [0003] - [0005], [0007], [0018], [0019], [0028] - [0053]; figuren 1A-4B *	7,8

☐ Verdere documenten worden vermeld in het vervolg van vak C.

☒ Leden van dezelfde octrooifamilie zijn vermeld in een bijlage

° Speciale categorieën van aangehaalde documenten

"A" niet tot de categorie X of Y behorende literatuur die de stand van de techniek beschrijft

"D" in de octrooiaanvrage vermeld

"E" eerdere octrooi(aanvrage), gepubliceerd op of na de indieningsdatum, waarin dezelfde uitvinding wordt beschreven

"L" om andere redenen vermelde literatuur

"O" niet-schriftelijke stand van de techniek

"P" tussen de voorrangsdatum en de indieningsdatum gepubliceerde literatuur

"T" na de indieningsdatum of de voorrangsdatum gepubliceerde literatuur die niet bezwarend is voor de octrooiaanvrage, maar wordt vermeld ter verheldering van de theorie of het principe dat ten grondslag ligt aan de uitvinding

"X" de conclusie wordt als niet nieuw of niet inventief beschouwd ten opzichte van deze literatuur

"Y" de conclusie wordt als niet inventief beschouwd ten opzichte van de combinatie van deze literatuur met andere geciteerde literatuur van dezelfde categorie, waarbij de combinatie voor de vakman voor de hand liggend wordt geacht

"&" lid van dezelfde octrooifamilie of overeenkomstige octrooipublicatie

Datum waarop het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek van internationaal type werd voltooid	Verzenddatum van het rapport van het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek van internationaal type
1 augustus 2022	

Naam en adres van de instantie	De bevoegde ambtenaar
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	**Leijten, René**

Formulier PCT/ISA/201 (tweede blad) (Januari 2004)

ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE

Informatie over leden van dezelfde octrooifamilie

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek

NL 2030829

In het rapport genoemd octrooigeschrift	Datum van publicatie	Overeenkomend(e) geschrift(en)	Datum van publicatie
US 2016122084 A1	05-05-2016	DK 3015394 T3	29-01-2018
		EP 3015394 A1	04-05-2016
		ES 2657081 T3	01-03-2018
		PL 3015394 T3	30-03-2018
		US 2016122084 A1	05-05-2016
US 2021122566 A1	29-04-2021	GEEN	

WRITTEN OPINION

File No.	Filing date *(day/month/year)*	Priority date *(day/month/year)*	Application No.
SN81011	07.02.2022		NL2030829

International Patent Classification (IPC)
INV. B65D33/20 B65B1/00 B65D33/28 B65F1/00 B65D33/18

Applicant
majem B.V.

This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the application

	Examiner
	Leijten, René

Application number

WRITTEN OPINION

NL2030829

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. This opinion has been established on the basis of the latest set of claims filed before the start of the search.

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the application, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

   a. type of material:

   ☐ a sequence listing

   ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

   b. format of material:

   ☐ on paper

   ☐ in electronic form

   c. time of filing/furnishing:

   ☐ contained in the application as filed.

   ☐ filed together with the application in electronic form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

Box No. V Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty	Yes:	Claims	7-9
	No:	Claims	1-6, 10-19
Inventive step	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-19
Industrial applicability	Yes:	Claims	1-19
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 US 2016/122084 A1

D2 US 2021/122566 A1

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the criteria of patentability, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Verzendzak (bag 1; see also par. 57: bag for online or mail order trading), omvattende:

- een opslagvolume welke toegankelijk is via een opening in de zak;

- een omslagflap welke weg strekt van de opening van de verzendzak richting een flapuiteinde, waarin de omslagflap een distale+ verzwakte sectie (see par. 69: D1 discloses that the bag can be provided with more adhesives strips and destructible film areas; a bag provided with for example three adhesives strips would be provided with two destructible film areas, a distal and a proximal weakened section) omvat gepositioneerd op een eerste afstand van het flapuiteinde en een proximale+ verzwakte sectie (13) gepositioneerd op een tweede afstand van het flapuiteinde en

- een distaal+ verbindingselement (14) ingericht voor vormen van een verbinding tussen de zak en een deel van de omslagflap tussen de distale+ verzwakte sectie.

(par. 20, 46, 51-55, 57, 59, 60, 65-69; fig. 1A, 3A-3C)

+ distal and proximal: distal and proximal have no further meaning than distal is further away from the edge of the flap than proximal. In case there are three strips and/or weakening lines, the second strip or line can still be considered to be distal, meaning further away from the edge than the first strip or line.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in view of D1.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 12

The present application does not meet the criteria of patentability, because the subject-matter of claim 12 is not new.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Werkwijze voor gebruiken van een verzendzak (1, par. 57) (, bij voorkeur een verzendzak volgens een van de voorgaande conclusies,) omvattende een stap van verwijderen van ten minste deel van een omslagflap (for the first opening of the bag a part of the closing flap is removed, see fig. 3C where the part with adhesive strip 15 has been removed) van de verzendzak.

(par. 20, 46, 51-55, 57, 59, 60, 65-69; fig. 1A, 3A-3C)

The subject-matter of claim 12 is also not new in view of document D2. The document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Werkwijze voor gebruiken van een verzendzak* (100, par. 1), omvattende een stap van verwijderen van ten minste deel van een omslagflap van de verzendzak.

(par. 1, 3-5, 7, 18, 19, 28-53; fig. 1A-4B)

* the features "bij voorkeur een verzendzak volgens een van de voorgaande conclusies" are optional, therefore also D2 discloses the method of claim 12

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 12 is not new in view of D1 and D2.

4 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 18

The present application does not meet the criteria of patentability, because the subject-matter of claim 18 is not new.

The document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Verzendzak (100, par. 1) omvattende:

- een opslagvolume welke toegankelijk is via een opening in de zak;

- een omslagflap welke weg strekt van de opening van de verzendzak richting een flapuiteinde; en

- een sluitingsmechanisme (drawstring 60) gepositioneerd tussen een gesloten uiteinde van de zak en de opening in de zak, waarin het sluitingsmechanisme is ingericht om toegang tot het opslagvolume door de opening in de zak te voorkomen of beperken.

(par. 1, 3-5, 7, 18, 19, 28-53; fig. 1A-4B)

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 18 is not new in view of D2.

5 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-11, 13-17, 19

Dependent claims 2-11, 13-17 and do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of novelty (2-6, 10, 11, 13-17 and 19) or inventive step (7, 8, 9), see documents D1 and D2 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.

6 FINAL REMARK

The present application is directed towards a mailing bag having a drawstring for using the bag as a garbage bag. Such a bag is known from D2. The bag of D2 not intended as a returnable mailing bag, meaning that the bag of D2 is not intended to be used by the receiver to return the received goods. However, such returnable mailing bags are commonly known in the technical field. Document D1 discloses such as returnable mailing bag having multiple adhesives strips interrupted by tear lines.

The present application teaches to combine a commonly known returnable mailing bag with a known mailing bag which is usable as a garbage bag by providing a drawstring and a weakening line to tear off the closing flap.

It is considered that such a combination is obvious for the skilled person. Starting from D1 the objective technical problem would be to create a returnable mailing bag that can be used as a garbage bag. Starting from D2 the objective technical problem would be to create a returnable mailing bag.

In both cases the skilled person would arrive at a bag as disclosed by the present application without exercising any inventive activity. Features not directly disclosed by the combination of D1 and D2 are regarded to be based on slight constructional changes / design options which come within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen.